

Embassy of the United States of America

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**Statement on the Planned Auction of Sacred Native
American Objects
December 9 and 10 in Paris**

The U.S. Embassy delivered a letter to the Eve auction house on December 7 from Chargé d’Affaires Mark Taplin urgently requesting a delay in the sale on December 9 and 10 in Paris of sacred objects from the Hopi and San Carlos Apache tribes. The Embassy made this request on behalf of the two tribes so that they might have the opportunity to identify the objects, investigate their provenance and determine whether they have a claim to recover the items under the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which France is a signatory, or under other laws.

In the letter, the Chargé expressed his hope that the Eve auction house would immediately enter into a dialogue with the tribes to address their concerns. These sacred objects are of great importance to the Hopi and San Carlos Apache peoples and should not be offered for sale precipitously and in the absence of consultation with the two tribes.